THE CLEVELAND MUSEUM OF ART

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PRESS RELEASE

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MUSEUM'S EARLY AMERICAN PAINTING COLLECTION SUBJECT OF LECTURE ON MAY 9

Bruce Robertson, assistant curator of American painting at The Cleveland Museum of Art and assistant professor of art history at Case Western Reserve University, will discuss "Founding Fathers and Mothers: Collecting American Art" in a free slide lecture at the Museum on Wednesday, May 9, at 5:45 pm.

Dr. Robertson will begin his talk by describing the contributions of four men who were instrumental in establishing The Cleveland Museum of Art and its collections of American art: Museum founders Hinman B. Hurlbut and J. H. Wade II; Judge William B. Sanders, the Museum's first president; and Frederic A. Whiting, the Museum's first director. He will then focus on the portraits of colonial American men and women which were acquired during the Museum's first decade (1915-1923) and which form the basis of the American collection. Most of these are still on view, notably John Singleton Copley's portraits of Mrs. John Greene (1769) and Nathaniel Hurd (ca. 1765), and Charles Willson Peale's portrait of George Washington at the Battle of Princeton (ca. 1779-80), the first painting to be bought from the income of Museum memberships.

Dr. Robertson, a native of New Zealand, received his B.A. from Swarthmore College and his M.A. and Ph.D. in art history from Yale University. He taught at Oberlin College from 1984 to 1987, when he joined the staff of The Cleveland Museum of Art. He is the organizer of a traveling exhibition, **Reckoning with Winslow Homer: His Late Paintings and Their Influence**, which will open at The Cleveland Museum of Art on September 19, 1990.

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